

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2003
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Ray Stevens, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Bob Workman

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier, Chair
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Staff Meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of February 13, 2003. Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Conference Call
- B. Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) Update

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

3 COMMISSIONERS MEETING REPORTS

- A. Information Services Policy Committee (ISPC) - Stevens

Stevens said the City has asked Information Services to submit an operating budget for the next year that is 97.7% of the current budget.

B. Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee (VPAC) - Schorr

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said a retreat was held to plan the budget and develop a strategic plan. He said the committee believes it is important to get the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) involved in visitors promotion.

C. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Workman

Stevens said concerns relating to the Indian Center were discussed.

D. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Stevens, Workman

Stevens said most of the discussion focused on the Lincoln Board of Education's financing and budgeting process.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Conference Call

Workman said NACO has withdrawn its support of LB 689 (require valuation of tax-exempt property by tax-exempt organizations) due to amendment of the bill.

Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, appeared and said the bill, as amended, would require County Assessors to establish value on all legislative permissive exemptions.

4 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant; Amy Prenda, Director of Legal Research and Analysis for Kissel/E&S Associates

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, gave a legislative update (Exhibit A). He said LB 99 (change provisions relating to the Nebraska Visitors Development Act) failed to advance but said strategies are being developed to have the vote reconsidered or to amend the language into another bill.

Eagan gave a brief overview of LB 232 (authorize a county records improvement filing fee).

Hudkins said Lancaster County has a unique situation (a consolidated County Assessor/Register of Deeds Office) and suggested amendment of the bill to allow use of the funds throughout the entire office.

Kissel agreed to draft amendment language.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer, appeared and said LB 80 (change tax sale procedures) is not feasible, as amended. He said the bill may be brought back next year in a different form.

Kissel remarked that Senator Landis is still supportive of a county role.

Adams reported on LB 279 (change provisions for the issuance of license plates and motor vehicle recordkeeping).

Hudkins said there is still a dispute within the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee over which organizations should have specialty plates.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to: 1) Support LB 279, including a six year provision and specialty plates for any organization committing to 500 or more sets of plates; and 2) Authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support, if deemed necessary.

Stevens said he dislikes specialty plates, so will oppose the motion.

ON CALL: Hudkins voted aye. Stevens and Workman voted no. Motion failed.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to support LB 279, without taking a position on the specialty plates provision. Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Kissel agreed to monitor the following bills:

- * LB 188 Increase motor vehicle registration fees for enforcement of drug offenses and violent crimes)
- * LB 417 (Eliminate provisions relating to payment for wards' education)
- * LR 11CA (Constitutional amendment to authorize games of chance)
- * LR 14CA (Provide for gaming on Indian lands and an interdiction gaming zone)

- 5 **LEVEL V YOUTH** - Dennis Banks, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center Director; Ron Ross, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services Director; Dawn Swanson, HHS Office of Protection & Safety Administrator

Item held.

- 6 **CORONER'S PHYSICIAN CONTRACT** - Gary Lacey, County Attorney; Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, said, after further negotiation, Dr. Matthias Okoye has agreed to perform forensic pathology services as the coroner's physician at a rate of \$170,000 per year (four year contract term). An additional fee of \$1,700 per autopsy will be charged for autopsies in excess of 100 per contract year. Toxicology tests will be billed separately.

Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney, said he believes an escape clause is in the County's best interest, but said those terms are still being negotiated. He also informed the Board that it may be necessary to supplement the budget for this contract.

NOTE: The Board will take action on the contract at the February 25, 2003 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

7 **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Visitors Promotion Advisory Committee (VPAC) Recommendations:
1. Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Consultant to Perform a Comprehensive Community-Wide Study for the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to: 1) Authorize the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce to go out for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to perform a comprehensive community-wide study for the Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), provided there is representation from the County and the hotel industry on the committee developing the RFP and on the selection committee; and 2) Direct the CVB to utilize funds in its existing budget and to re-budget if additional funds are needed. On call Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Contingency Fund Award of up to \$1,500 for Nebraska Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins second to approve the Contingency Fund award, contingent upon demonstration of a loss. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Common Agenda Items

The following items were suggested:

- * Joint County Board/City Council receptionist
- * Expansion of the presentation on the West Bypass Study Report to include an update on the South Beltway

- C. Purchase of a Compact Disc (CD) Writer for Election Commissioner, \$80.85 from the Microcomputer Fund

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded approval. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- D. Letter of Intent to Allow Self Employment Loan Fund (SELF) of Lincoln, Inc. to Use County Economic Development Funds (Exhibit B)

Eagan said the Self Employment Loan Fund (SELF) has proposed that the County transfer control of \$90,000, originally committed to the Rural Enterprise Assistance Program (REAP), to SELF.

Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney, appeared and advised against doing so, stating the funds need to remain in County coffers.

Hudkins said he favors retaining control and channeling the funds towards larger economic development projects.

Workman said it would be preferable for SELF to bring specific projects forward for consideration.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to decline participation in the Self Employment Loan Fund (SELF) under the conditions outlined in the Letter of Intent, but to indicate that the Board is willing to consider specific economic development projects. Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

- E. Microcomputer Request, C#2003-013 from County Extension, \$618.45 from the County Extension Budget for One (1) Compaq EVO MiniTower Pentium IV

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval, with funding from the Housing Authority Grant. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

- F. Request from County Engineer to Pay Tuition for Geographic Information System (GIS) Class for Jim Langtry, County Engineer GIS Mapping Division Head

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to defer the request. Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- B. Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) Update

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, is working out the details of a contract with HIPAA Academy for consulting work related to Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance.

Thorpe also requested authorization for Judy Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer for the Community Mental Health Center, to attend a HIPAA seminar in Kearney, Nebraska on February 28, 2003.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to authorize Judy Tannahill, Community Mental Health Center, to attend the HIPAA seminar in Kearney, Nebraska and to approve registration, lodging and mileage expenses, if needed. Hudkins, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. County Representative on Benefits Consultant Request for Proposals (RFP) Review Committee

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to appoint Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, and Tim Genuchi, Accounting Operations Manager for the County Clerk's Office, to the Benefits Consultant Request for Proposals (RFP) Review Committee. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Comprehensive Plan Amendments

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to request amendment of the Lincoln and Lancaster County 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Page F71, Paragraph 4 to read as follows:

An independent study to quantify and qualify the positive and negative economics of acreage development will be completed. The study should include a review of policy issues and options such as the build-through concept, lot size, acreage standards, acreages and town relationships, acreages and sensitive areas, agriculture, acreage clusters, desired acreage population, acreage size and land use consumption and AGR zoning.

Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Letter from Volunteer Partners

Board consensus was to ask Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, and Warren Cook, Coordinator of Adult Offender Services, to follow up on the matter.

D. Sheriff Car Detailing

Eagan said the Sheriff's Department will continue to utilize the services of the County Engineering Department.

E. Pension Plan Discussion (Fidelity Magellan)

Eagan reported a recommendation from Rod Crane, Segal Advisors, to eliminate the Fidelity Magellan Fund from the pension plan line-up and substitute another large cap fund. He said the recommendation is based on the fund's performance and associated asset-based fee.

The Board requested additional pricing information and a recommendation from the Pension Plan Review Committee on the final proposal.

F. Request from American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) President to Meet with County Board Prior to Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to accept the request and to schedule a half hour of time with American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) on the February 27, 2003 Staff Meeting agenda. Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Workman voted no. Motion carried.

G. Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) Placements at Bryan/LGH Health System

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to refer the matter to Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, for investigation and recommendation. Hudkins, Stevens and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

9 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk